

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**72-HOUR REPORT****13 AUGUST 2018**

---

**(U) CALIFORNIA****(U) Sacramento – Election Officials Are Defending Against Cyberattacks**

(U) California election officials are guarding their voting machines and registration lists against Russian hackers—although no one has spotted any. Hacking into California's voting system and altering votes, however, is considered by most experts to be practically impossible. That's because voting machines are not networked to the internet. State law forbids it. A hacker might attack one machine but could not reach into the entire vote-collecting system. Voter registration lists are different however, "People are registered online – their records are connected to the internet and hackers could break into those," says Matt Bishop, a UC Davis computer science professor. "They could create chaos by disenfranchising voters."

SOURCE: 13 August 2018, [Los Angeles Times](#)

**(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER****(U) Arizona – Tucson Man Allegedly Tied to Somali Terrorist Organization Arrested**

(U) Tucson – A refugee couple in Tucson were arrested by authorities and are facing numerous charges of falsifying immigration documents, including lying to federal officials about the husband's involvement with the African terrorist organization, al-Shabab. Mohamed Abdirahman Osman, 28, is facing eight counts of supplying false information on immigration documents, and his wife, Zeinab Abdirahman Mohamed, 25, is facing three counts of providing false information in support of Osman as they sought refugee status in 2013 while living in China and permanent residency in 2015 while living in Tucson.

SOURCE: 10 August 2018, [Arizona Daily Star](#)

**(U) Texas – Border Patrol Finds 78 Illegal Immigrants in Refrigerated Trailer on I-35**

(U) Laredo – Laredo Border Patrol agents on 11 August found 78 illegal immigrants inside a locked refrigerated tractor-trailer along Interstate 35. The 78 illegal immigrants were found in good health and identified as being from the countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Brazil, Ecuador, India, and the Dominican Republic. The driver and passenger, both US citizens, were arrested and the tractor-trailer was seized by Border Patrol. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is the lead investigative agency in this case.

SOURCE: 11 August 2018, [KSAT 12](#)

**(U) NATIONAL****(U) Illinois – US Citizen Indicted for Trying to Join ISIS**

(U) Chicago – A federal grand jury has indicted a US citizen for attempting to join the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). The grand jury in Chicago charged Fares Shraiteh with conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS and other crimes. Shraiteh used to live in Chicago and now lives in Israel. According to the indictment, Shraiteh and two other people began trying to join ISIS in 2014 and traveled to Egypt the following year. The three then traveled to Turkey, but Shraiteh was not allowed to enter the country and instead flew to Israel, where he has family. The indictment says one of Shraiteh's

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Form # 1168-442e-b407-de1a8c242c14

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

traveling companions later died carrying out a suicide attack on behalf of ISIS militants.

SOURCE: 10 August 2018, [VOA News](#)

**(U) Washington – Seattle Airport Employee Steals, Crashes Horizon Air Passenger Plane**

(U) Seattle – A "suicidal" airline employee stole an empty Horizon Airlines plane, took off from Sea-Tac International Airport and was chased by military jets before crashing near a small island in the Puget Sound on 10 August, officials said. Preliminary information suggests that the 29-year-old ground crew member stole the Horizon Air Q400 and the crash occurred because he was "doing stunts in air or lack of flying skills," the Pierce County Sheriff's Department said. Ed Troyer, a spokesman for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, said on Twitter the man was suicidal and there was no connection to terrorism.

SOURCE: 10 August 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Cuba – Cuba Extradites Eco-Terrorism Suspect to US Officials**

(U) Havana – A fugitive described by the FBI as a "domestic terrorist," who has been on the run for a dozen years, was handed over to US law enforcement by Cuba, where he was planning on boarding a plane to Russia, authorities said. Federal officials announced on 10 August that 50-year-old Joseph Mahmoud Dibee was in Cuba and about to board the plane when authorities there apprehended him. Dibee and four co-conspirators allegedly set fire to a meat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon, on 21 July 1997, burning it to the ground and causing \$1.2 million in damage.

SOURCE: 11 August 2018, [NBC News](#)

**(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – New Ebola Cases Ahead of Historic Test Treatment**

(U) Mangina – Four new cases of Ebola virus have been confirmed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the health ministry said, as authorities prepare to deploy an experimental treatment. The latest confirmed cases near the town of Mangina in Congo's North Kivu province bring the total for the current outbreak to 21, the ministry said in a statement. Two more people – one near Mangina and another in the city of Beni – died of Ebola, the ministry said. In all, the haemorrhagic fever is believed to have killed 38 people, although several of these cases have not been confirmed.

SOURCE: 11 August 2018, [Africa News](#)

**(U) Egypt – Egyptian Forces Kills 12 Suspected Militants in Sinai**

(U) Cairo – Egyptian security forces have killed 12 suspected militants in raids on their hideouts in north Sinai, state news agency MENA reported yesterday, in the latest in a campaign to uproot armed Islamists behind a wave of violence in the area. There have been at least 325 suspected militants killed in the Sinai campaign which began in February 2018, according to a Reuters count based on military statements. At least 35 military personnel have also been killed.

SOURCE: 12 August 2018, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Egypt – Egypt Officials Say Bombing Attempt Near Church Thwarted**

(U) Cairo – A man wearing an explosives belt attempted to attack a Coptic Christian church north of Cairo but failed to enter before blowing himself up, Egyptian security officials said. The man tried to enter the church in Mostorod district in Qaliubiya province with churchgoers but tightened security around the church prevented him from approaching, the officials said. Local media reported that he detonated the explosives about 275 yards from the church, killing himself. No other fatalities were reported.

SOURCE: 11 August 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****(U) Jordan – Death Toll for Jordan Troops in Clash Rises to Four**

(U) Amman – A Jordanian official says the number of troops killed during a raid of a suspected militant hideout has risen to four. The 11 August clash in the central town of Salt was among the deadliest between troops and suspected extremists in recent years. It raised new concerns about attempts by domestic and foreign militants to carry out attacks and destabilize the pro-Western kingdom. Government spokeswoman Jumana Ghuneimat initially said three members of the security forces were killed when suspects holed up inside a building opening fire and set off explosions, but the number has risen to four.

SOURCE: 12 August 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

*Warning: This document is the exclusive property of the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code Sec. 6250-6270). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with STAC policy relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized STAC official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.*

*This document contains excerpts of suspicious activities and incidents of interest to the STAC as obtained from open and unclassified sources.*